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United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Baker
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to express concern about U.S: participation in a World Bank-chaired donor consortium for Indonesia which will meet in Paris on July 16. We believe that given the circumstances under which that consortium was established it, it is imperative that the Administration make a strong, public statement noting its continuing distress at Indonesia's human rights record and its determination to monitor that record closely.

As you know, the Government of Indonesia dissolved the existing donor consortium, the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI), last March, on the grounds that the Netherlands, which chaired the IGGI, had been too strident in its criticism of Indonesian human rights abuses and too quick to suspend aid after the November massacre in Dili, East Timor. Indonesia's action in demanding the dissolution of the IGGI was one salvo in an ongoing effort to reject any conditioning of foreign aid on human rights grounds.

By making a strong statement of concern over the appalling record of abuse in East Timor and in Indonesia proper at the Consultative Group meeting, the United States would be sending an appropriate signal to the Government of Indonesia that its human rights behavior is of international concern which will affect international support for its development program.

We are also concerned by recent statements by the Indonesian Minister of Interior forbidding Indonesian social organizations and institutions from participating in the International NGO Forum on Indonesia (INGI) and from receiving funding from Dutch sources. This action harms in particular the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation and Indonesian environmental groups. We believe that the United States should

state its support at the consortium meeting for direct links between NGOs operating in Indonesia and the Consultative Group.

Recent actions taken by the Indonesian government in prosecuting East Timorese for their involvement in the November 12th demonstration in Dili and the November 19th demonstration before foreign embassies in Jakarta, protesting the treatment of East Timorese by the Indonesian military deeply concern us.

Two East Timorese have been sentenced to nine and ten years in prison. Others have been sentenced to lesser but still significant terms. Yet the ten Indonesian military personnel court-martialed for their participation in the massacre were given light sentences of 18 months or less and none were charged with murder despite U.S. Embassy estimates that between 75 amd 100 East Timorese were killed. At the same time, the full report of the National Commission of Inquiry which might shed further light on which units of the military were responsible for the killing, has not been made public, nor has the report of the Honorary Military Council.

We would appreciate learning what actions the United States intends to take at the Consultative Group meeting to impress upon the Indonesian Government that respect for internationally recognized standards of standards of human rights is an essential component of its development strategy and program.

Sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
U.S. Senator

Malcolm Wallop
U.S. Senator

Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senator

David Durenberger
U.S. Senator

John Kerry
U.S. Senator